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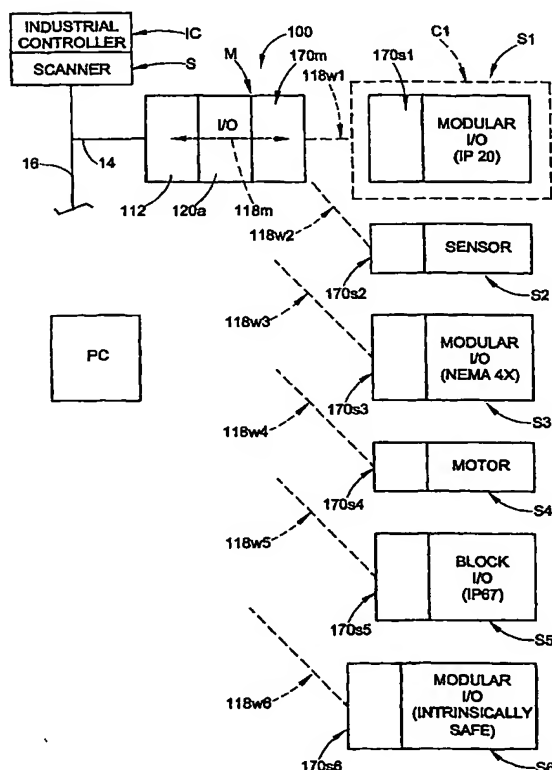
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ROCKWELL AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** [US/US]; 1 Allen-Bradley Drive, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124 (US).

- (72) Inventors; and  
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SICHNER, Gregg, M.** [US/US]; 7860 Kellogg Creek Drive, Mentor, OH 44060 (US). **KRETSCHMANN, Robert, J.** [US/US]; 28915 Osborn Road, Bay Village, OH 44140 (US). **ENGDAHL, Jonathan, R.** [US/US]; 11296 Brookside Road, Chardon, OH 44024 (US). **PAI, Ram** [US/US]; 4253 Lake Meadow Drive, Racine, WI 53402 (US). **ZHUANG, Jianguo** [CN/CN]; Apartment 501, Building 1, 123 Gui Ping Road, Shanghai 200233 (CN). **JIA, Qing** [CN/CN]; Innovation Center Building, Room 403, NO. 680, Gui Ping Road, Shanghai 200233 (CN). **BRANDT, David, D.** [US/US]; 3271 South 54th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219 (US).
- (74) Agent: **HAAS, Steven, M.**; Fay, Sharpe, Fagan, Minnich & McKee, LLP, 1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114-2579 (US).

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(54) Title: **DISTRIBUTED MODULAR INPUT/OUTPUT SYSTEM WITH WIRELESS BACKPLANE EXTENDER**



(57) Abstract: A distributed modular input/output system includes a primary wireless device adapted to be operatively connected to an associated industrial controller. A secondary wireless device is physically disconnected from the primary wireless device. The secondary wireless device is operatively connected to the primary wireless device by a primary wireless backplane link. At least one input/output module is operatively connected the secondary wireless device. An associated field device can be connected to the at least one input/output module for communication with the associated industrial controller via the secondary wireless device, the primary wireless backplane link, and the primary wireless device. Typically, a plurality of the secondary wireless devices are physically disconnected from the primary wireless device and each includes one or more of the input/output modules operably connected thereto. Each of the secondary wireless devices is operatively connected to the primary wireless device by a respective plurality of primary wireless backplane links.



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